

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

ELLIMMA, A GENUS OF FOSSIL HERRINGS.

Professor Theodore D. A. Cockerell calls my attention to the fact that the name *Ellipes*, given by me (Annals Carnegie Museum VII, No. 1, 1912, page 23) to a genus of fossil Clupeoid fishes from the Eocene Shales of Riacho Doce, Brazil, was preoccupied by Scudder (Psyche, IX, p. 308, 1902) for a genus of crickets. The genus of extinct herrings may then be renamed **Ellimma**, the type being *Ellipes branneri* Jordan.

—David Starr Jordan.

THE TYPE SPECIES OF *CUNICULUS* BRISSON.

The type species of the genera of mammals dating from Brisson, *Regnum Animale*, 1762, were fixed by Dr. C. Hart Merriam in 1895 (Science, N. S., I, p. 375). With the exception of *Cuniculus* all were fixed by tautonymy or monotypy. Working with the original A. O. U. code, Doctor Merriam fixed the type of *Cuniculus* by elimination as *Cuniculus cauda longissima* Brisson = *Dipus alactaga* Olivier = *Cuniculus alactaga* (Olivier), 1800. According to Article 30 of the International Code this disposition of *Cuniculus* is not permissible, because *C. cauda longissima* was placed in brackets at the end of the series; and the introduction to the work explains that species so placed were doubtfully referred to the genus. Aside from *Allactaga*, which is thus clearly not to be replaced by *Cuniculus*, Brisson's genus contains representatives of the five modern genera *Dasyprocta*, *Agouti*, *Lemmus*, *Citellus* and *Caria*, all of later date. As the type can not be fixed from this assemblage by any other rule, it must be selected. To avoid as much confusion as possible I propose that it be fixed on *Paca*, Brisson, p. 99, based on *Cuniculus major palustris*, *fasciis albis notatus* Barrere, 1741. *Cuniculus* Brisson, 1762, thus antedates and replaces *Agouti* Lacépède 1799, and the forms included in this genus become—

Cuniculus paca nelsoni (Goldman).

Cuniculus paca paca (Linnaeus).

Cuniculus paca virgatus (Bangs).

Cuniculus sierræ (Thomas).

Cuniculus sublavævis (Gervais).

Cuniculus taczanowskii (Stolzmann).

—N. Hollister.